

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at Seabrook City Hall, 1700  
2 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

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4 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

5 Helen Burton	Chair
6 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
7 John Coggeshall	Member
8 Monica Comeaux (Absent)	Member
9 Debra Harper	Member
10 David Popken	Member
11 Heather Cable	Member
12 Stephanie Martinez	Executive Administrative Assistant

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14 Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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16 **1.0 PRESENTATIONS**

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18 **1.1 Presentations on removal of invasive species at Seabrook Prairie. (George Kyame)**

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20 Not much is being done at the Seabrook Prairie at the moment due to the cold weather. Mr.  
21 Kyame did mention he will be working with a new volunteer, Hope Bean the founder of  
22 Rootimentary, who is interested in planting butterfly weed.

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24 **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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26 There were no comments or announcements.

27 **3.0 UPDATES**

28 **3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.**

29 The cane root berm, located in the Butterfly Garden, cannot be removed until the ground is dry  
30 enough for trucks to get to the location with no problem.

31 **3.2 Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.**

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  - Upcoming Events: Trash Bash 2018 – March 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Easter Egg Hunt – March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - The Community House was renovated
  - A tandem swing was bought for Miramar Park
  - The Police Department has requested to keep the hedge trimmed at a specified height at Baybrook Park
  - Pine Gully Pier biddings have started

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40 **3.3 Update on the status of the Open Space and Trails Committee acceptance into the Keep**  
41 **Texas Beautiful Organization.**

42 The only question that was received after turning in the application to become an affiliate of the  
43 Keep Texas Beautiful Organization was the contact information of all the organizations the City

of Seabrook uses. Chair Burton submitted the information to Keep Texas Beautiful as requested. All else looks well with the application, hopefully the City will become an affiliate soon.

### **3.4 Update on Tree Planting Day held on January 6, 2018.**

There were about 50 volunteers for the Tree Planting Day. A map of the parks made the Tree Planting Day more organized, and City staff was able to show the areas to the volunteers where the trees were to be planted at the various parks. The Parks Department drilled holes in the ground ahead of time to make the planting easier and quicker. The event was a success.

## **4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **4.1 Discussion on a "Keep Texas Beautiful" Grant Application.**

The grant application has been submitted prior to the deadline by Member Antrobus and the Committee is awaiting the results.

The Keep Texas Beautiful Organization has reached out to see if anyone from the Committee is interested in judging the grant applications that were submitted since the City of Seabrook is in the process of becoming an affiliate. The judging dates are March 1-2, 2018, in Austin.

### **4.2 Discussion on a birding event to be held in the City of Seabrook's Parks.**

The birding event has been scheduled for February 24, 2018. It will be held at Carothers from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Member Popken has reached out to the Communications Department to have a press release sent to the citizens of Seabrook for the event, and signs will be placed in the Seabrook parks to advertise the event. The speakers, Sarah Flournoy and Stennie Meadours, from Houston Audubon, will discuss how residents can promote birds in the city and at their own home and then lead in a birding walk around Pine Gully Park.

### **4.3 Discussion on making Baybrook more inviting, including the grooming of the hedge.**

The Police Department has specific height requirements for the hedge due to safety concerns, so the grooming will need to be maintained.

After all the planting and the installation of the new trail, Member Antrobus stated that Baybrook Park already looks richer.

### **4.4 Discussion on trash cans and recycle cans in the Seabrook parks.**

The Committee will apply for a grant that will furnish the City with recycle bins. This grant is a partnership between Keep America Beautiful and Coca-Cola. Public Works has an area that can be designated for recycled cans because one of the requirements of the grant is to track the recyclables collected. The Public Works Director will look into purchasing a scale to track and measure the recyclables. The Committee will go through the parks and locate the areas that will benefit from a recycle can.

### **4.5 Discussion on the upcoming seedling planting day.**



The seedlings were supposed to be delivered February 2, 2018 but more than 600 seedlings were delivered earlier than expected. A few volunteers rallied together to get seedlings planted quickly over the weekend, and City staff planted the remaining the following Monday. A suggestion of having only one tree planting day event a year instead of two was mentioned.

**4.6 Discussion on a proposition between the Open Space and Trails Committee and Rootimentary, a nonprofit foundation in the City of Seabrook.**

The focus of Rootimentary is primarily community gardens, with an overarching focus of enabling communities to come together under the purpose of creating a healthier natural environment, which is not only beneficial to the natural environment, but also to the beautification of the community. Hope Bean, the founder of Rootimentary, is interested in assisting the Open Space and Trails Committee with any projects.

**5.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS**

**5.1 Approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018 meeting.**

Member Harper stated that line 79 of the minutes should read, "Addition of an irrigation system at Pine Gully and Baybrook"

Motion was made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Coggeshall

To approve the minutes of the meeting with noted corrections

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

**5.2 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the Action Item Checklist.**

By Committee consensus:

- Removal of Item 23 – Baybrook Planting
- Item 10 – Quarterly report to Council will be in April
- Item 24 – Bees will come naturally if flowers are planted. The flowers will need to be planted in a secluded area.

**5.3 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning recommendations to Public Works Director on projects.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**5.4 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.**


The next meeting date is March 1, 2018.

Agenda items to include:

- Remove Update on Tree Planting Day held on January 6, 2018
- Remove discussion on trash cans and recycle cans in the Seabrook Parks

- Remove discussion on the upcoming seedling planting day
- Add discussion on planting wild flowers
- Add discussion on city wide composting

Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

  
Helen Burton,  
Chair

  
Stephanie Martinez,  
Executive Administrative Assistant

